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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [redacted]

INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

FLD 315

COUNTRY Dominican Republic/Palestine

DATE DISTR. 31 March 1948

SUBJECT Alleged Plan to Manufacture and Ship Arms for Palestine in Dominican Republic

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[redacted]

25X1A 1. [redacted] to Palestine. Silberman's factory, [redacted] will now be used for the repair of Dominican Army weapons, and also for the manufacture of small arms. Silberman has also stated that there are other sources for arms and ammunition in Latin America. [redacted] Brazil, which he uses as a camouflage for his other activities. 25X1A 25X1A

2. Silberman has approached Charles Maher, General Passenger Agent of the Pan American Airways at Ciudad Trujillo, regarding a clandestine proposition which would involve the shipment of arms and ammunition to Palestine to assist the Jews in their fight against the Arabs. He has offered to place Maher in charge of air operations in the Dominican Republic. According to the plan, flights would be made via North African points, with night landings in designated spots.

3. Silberman was considering approaching George Phillips, an ex-naval flier now employed by the Dominican Republic. He could not make up his mind about Phillips as the latter has a reputation as a heavy drinker, but he did admire his devil-may-care attitude and thought he would be a good man for the job.

4. Silberman's factory is now under the supervision of Alexander Kovacs, a native of Hungary, who reportedly was brought to the Dominican Republic by Silberman from Calcutta, India. In India he was employed as an engineer by the British Government. Kovacs has been described by Silberman as "an important cog in the Jewish 'underground' in the Western Hemisphere."

5. Two experts in the manufacture of small arms have been brought to the Dominican Republic from Europe, one a Czech and the other a Hungarian. Additional arms experts are expected for the factory.*

25X1A [redacted] Comment: It was reported from Ciudad Trujillo that Silberman departed from there on 5 March for New York, with the intention of continuing, on 18 March, to London and other European points, possibly to arrange for the travel of these experts.

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